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Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PK

SUBJECT:NARCOTICS COUNTRY ASSESSMENT FOR PAKISTAN

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AN INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT DESCRIBING THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM IN PAKISTAN. PAPER WAS PREPARED FOR USE DURING FY 1976 PROGRAM REVIEW. WE INVITE MISSION NARCOTICS COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE ASSESSMENT AND CABLE ANY COMMENTS, CORRECTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS MISSION MAY HAVE. MISSION REPRESENTATIVE AT NEU DEL'I REGIONAL NARCOTICS CONFERENCE MAY ALSO WISH DISCUSS ASSESSMENT WITH WASHINGTON REPS AT CONFERENCE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: SIGNIFICANCE: ILLICIT OPIUM POPPY CULTI-
VATION AND TRAFFICKING ARE BOTH PROBLEMS IN PAKISTAN. THERE ARE ALSO UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT SOME ILLICIT
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MORPHINE BASE IS BEING PRODUCED. ONLY 12 TONS OF OPIUM

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WERE PRODUCED LEGALLY IN PAKISTAN LAST YEAR, BUT IT IS ESTIMATED THAT UPWARD TO 170 TONS WERE PRODUCED ILLEGALLY. MOST OF THIS ILLEGAL PRODUCTION IS IN THE TRIBAL AREAS WHICH ARE LARGELY UNCONTROLLED BY THE GOVERNMENT. MOST OF THE ILLICIT OPIUM PRODUCED IN PAKISTAN IS SMUGGLED ACROSS AFGHANISTAN AND INTO IRAN BY AFGHAN TRIBESMEN, ALTHOUGH SOME IS SMUGGLED OUT THROUGH THE PORT OF KARACHI AND ON TO MARKETS IN EUROPE, HONG KONG, AND POSSIBLY THE US.

PROBLEM: THE MAIN PROBLEM IN PAKISTAN IS THE LACK OF FIRM POLICE CONTROL THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY IN AREAS BORDERING ON AFGHANISTAN. THERE IS ALSO A LACK OF ZEAL ON THE PART OF SOME GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, ESPECIALLY THOSE INVOLVED WITH THE TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND THE NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE, FOR EITHER TIGHT CONTROLS OF OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION OR A BAN ON OPIUM PRODUCTION. PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO AND OTHER TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE POLICE AND THE NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD, APPEAR TO BE COMMITTED TO A BAN ON CULTIVATION OF THE OPIUM POPPY PROVIDED OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE AREA DO LIKEWISE. LIFTING THE BAN ON OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION IN TURKEY, AND THE WIDELY ADVERTISED WORLD SHORTAGE OF OPIUM FOR PHARMACEUTICAL REQUIREMENTS, HAVE UNDERCUT US EFFORTS TO PROMOTE TIGHTER CONTROLS IN PAKISTAN. THE POSSIBILITY OF TRAFFICKERS WITH INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS CONTRACTING INSIDE PAKISTAN FOR THE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF HEROIN WILL PROBABLY DECREASE IN 1975 BECAUSE OF THE LIFTING OF THE BAN IN TURKEY. THE POLITICAL BACKLASH AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTROL EFFORT IN THE NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE HAS ALSO CAUSED THE GOVERNMENT TO REEVALUATE ITS NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM.

PROSPECTS: ALTHOUGH THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST OPIUM IS NOT GIVEN TOP PRIORITY IN PAKISTAN, IT HAS MADE IMPRESSIVE STRIDES FORWARD. IN MAY 1973 THE GOVERNMENT CREATED THE PAKISTAN NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD, RESPONSIBLE FOR ENFORCING NARCOTICS LAWS, AND, WITH US ASSISTANCE, IS IN THE PROCESS OF ORGANIZING AND EQUIPPING TWENTY FIELD
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INVESTIGATIVE UNITS. MORE ILLICIT OPIUM WAS SEIZED IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1974 THAN IN ALL OF 1973.
THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO END ILLICIT CULTIVATION OR INSTITUTE A BAN IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. THE ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITY SHOULD IMPROVE SIGNIFICANTLY, HOWEVER, AS THE INVESTIGATIVE UNITS BECOME MORE EXPERIENCED. END TEXT. KISSINGER

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